

WE CLAIM:

1. A granular component for use in a particulate detergent composition, the granules of which comprise an active substance and wherein it comprises an incomplete coating wherein less than 70% of the surface area of the component is coated.
2. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein from 10 to 70% of the surface area of the component is coated.
3. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating is a material which has a contact angle with distilled water at 25°C of from 10° to 180°.
4. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating material is present in the form of discrete domains.
5. A granular component as claimed in claim 4, wherein the average diameter of the coverage of the domains is from 10 to 100 micrometres.
6. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating is water-soluble.
7. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating is soluble in an alkaline aqueous solution.

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8. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating is a fatty acid.
9. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein it
5 has a d₅₀ average particle size of from 100 to 1000 micrometres.
10. A granular component as claimed in claim 9, wherein it
10 has a d₅₀ average particle size of from 200 to 600 micrometres.
11. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is a coloured speckle component.
- 15 12. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active substance is a photobleach, preferably a zinc and/or aluminium phthalocyanine sulphonate.
13. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
20 granules comprise at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible solid carrier particle.
14. A granular component as claimed in claim 13, wherein
25 the carrier particles are selected from sodium carbonate, sodium tripolyphosphate, zeolites or a mixture thereof.
15. A granular component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
30 granules comprise a hydrophilic binder.

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16. A granular component as claimed in claim 13, wherein a majority of the granules comprise a plurality of water-soluble or water-dispersible carrier particles bound together with a hydrophilic binder.

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17. A particulate detergent composition wherein it comprises from 0.1 to 5 wt%, preferably from 0.5 to 2 wt%, of a granular component as claimed in any preceding claim.

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18. A process for making a granular component for use in a particulate detergent composition, wherein it comprises the step of adding a liquid coating material to a precursor granular material, the precursor granular material comprising an active substance, wherein the precursor granular material is maintained at a temperature below the melting point of the liquid coating material as the liquid coating material is added, the coating material thereby solidifying on the surface of the precursor granular material and the coating material being added in such a quantity that there is an incomplete coating on the surface of the precursor granular material wherein less than 70% of the surface area of the component is coated.

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19. A process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the liquid coating material is sprayed onto the precursor granular material.

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20. A process as claimed in claim 18, wherein it is preceded by two stages wherein, in the first stage, an

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active substance is added to water-soluble or water-dispersible carrier particles and then, in the second stage, a liquid binder is added to form the precursor granular material.

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21. A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the active substance is sprayed onto the water-soluble or water-dispersible carrier particles.

10 22. A process as claimed in claims 20, wherein the liquid binder is sprayed onto the water-soluble or water-dispersible carrier particles.

15 23. A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the water-soluble or water-dispersible carrier particles are maintained at a temperature below the melting point of the liquid binder as the liquid hydrophilic binder is added, the binder thereby solidifying on the surface of the carrier particles.

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24. A process as claimed in claim 20, wherein a majority of the water-soluble or water-dispersible carrier particles granulate as the liquid hydrophilic binder is added.

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25. A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein at least one of the liquid addition stages is carried out in a fluidised bed.

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26. A process as claimed in claim 25, wherein all of the liquid addition stages are carried out in a fluidised bed.